

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 HELSIN 02422 272304Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----109271 272308Z /61

O 272229Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3014

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T HELSINKI 2422

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PCAT, US, UR

SUBJ: CAT: FOURTH MEETING OF POLITICAL/LEGAL WORKING GROUP,
JULY 27, 1978

SUMMARY: FINAL SESSION OF POLITICAL/LEGAL WORKING GROUP
RESULTED IN COMPLETION OF PRELIMINARY POINT-BY-POINT DISCUS-
SION OF US AND SOVIET DRAFT CRITERIA. WHILE MANY DISAGREE-
MENTS REMAIN, SOVIETS DEMONSTRATED FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE ON MANY
POINTS, SUGGESTING THAT THERE ARE GOOD PROSPECTS FOR
DRAFTING OF MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE LANGUAGE AT NEXT ROUND.
END SUMMARY.

1. FOURTH AND FINAL SESSION OF WORKING GROUP MET JULY 27.
FOLLOWING MAJOR POINTS DISCUSSED: (A) SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL
LIBERATION MOVEMENTS: SOVIETS INSISTED THAT ARMED SUPPORT
BY STATES WAS LAWFUL AND APPROPRIATE, WHILE US SIDE ARGUED
THAT SUPPORT COULD NOT GO BEYOND MORAL, POLITICAL, OR
HUMANITARIAN; SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCE ON THIS POINT CLEARLY
REMAINS; (B) CHAPTER VII SANCTIONS: SOVIETS INDICATED THEY
PROBABLY COULD ACCEPT US VIEW THAT ARMS TRANSFERS NEED
NOT NECESSARILY BE PROHIBITED TO STATE SUBJECT ONLY TO
ECONOMIC AND DIPLOMATIC SANCTIONS; (C) TERRITORIAL
INTEGRITY: SOVIETS STATED UNWILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT US

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REFERENCE TO LINE OF DEMARCATION, BUT INDICATED UNDER-
STANDING OF US OBJECTIONS TO SOVIET FORMULA PROHIBITING
ALL TRANSFERS TO STATES WITH TERRITORIAL CLAIMS; (D) HUMAN
RIGHTS AND SELF-DETERMINATION: US SIDE OBJECTED TO SOVIET
REFERENCES TO "COLONIAL WARS" AND "OCCUPIED TERRITORIES";
SOVIETS INDICATED APPRECIATION OF US CONCERNS, AND WILL-
INGNESS TO WORK OUT ACCEPTABLE GENERAL FORMULA; (E) STATES

REFUSING TO ADHERE TO ARMS CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS; SOVIETS
ACKNOWLEDGED US OBJECTION TO PROHIBITION OF TRANSFERS
TO SUCH STATES AND INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO ADOPT
LANGUAGE TO MEET US PROBLEMS; (F) SALES FOR PROFIT:
SOVIETS SEEMED TO AGREE THAT NO PROHIBITION NECESSARY IF
COMMERCIAL SALES SUBJECT TO CRITERIA; (G) US "POLITICAL"
CRITERIA: SOVIETS SEEMED TO ACCEPT IDEA OF HAVING SUCH
CRITERIA, BUT SUGGESTED PLACEMENT IN PREAMBLE OR COM-
BINATION WITH MILITARY/TECHNICAL CRITERIA; ON SUB-
STANCE, SOVIETS OBJECTED TO PARA ON ECONOMIC CONSIDERA-
TIONS (AS FAVORING "RICH COUNTRIES" LIKE SAUDI ARABIA)
AND TO REFERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM.

2. COMMENT: SOVIETS WERE TRYING HARD TO DEMONSTRATE
FLEXIBILITY AND POSITIVE ATTITUDE ALTHOUGH THEY POINTED
OUT SOME POINTS OF SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES. IF SOVIET
ATTITUDE CONTINUES, AGREEMENT ON ACCEPTABLE CRITERIA IS
POSSIBLE NEXT ROUND. SOVIETS MAY, HOWEVER, BE
TEMPTED TO SEEK POLITICAL ADVANTAGES, PARTICULARLY
THROUGH REFERENCES TO OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND LIBERATION
MOVEMENTS. END COMMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HELSIN02422
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780309-0078
Format: TEL
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780715/aaaaamkx.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c93ed76b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1870932
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CAT: FOURTH MEETING OF POLITICAL/LEGAL WORKING GROUP, JULY 27, 1978 SUMMARY: FINAL SESSION OF POLITICAL/LEGAL WORKING
TAGS: PARM, PCAT, US, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c93ed76b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014